

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:

Urban Design Committee

DATE, TIME AND

PLACE OF MEETING:

Wednesday, April 5, 2006, 3:00 p.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 2nd Floor, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Dennis Scheer, Gordon Scholz and Scott Sullivan; (Mike Eckert, JoAnne Kissel, Third World Oforah and Kim Todd absent).
Others: Danielle Epp (for Verizon Wireless); Jeff Chadwick (Clark Enersen Partners); Larry Worth and Glenn Knust of StarTran; Doug Dolan (Dolan Realty Advisors); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth of the Planning Department.

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Regular Urban Design Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Approval of meeting notes of February 1 and March 1, 2006

Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting notes were not voted upon.

Monopole for wireless communication antennae, Cooper Park, 6th - 8th Street, D to F Streets (Danielle Epp for Verizon)

Danielle Epp, representing Verizon Wireless, stated that this site is part of their reconfiguration project. On this particular site, they have a temporary site on Zion Church at 9th and D Streets. But the equipment will not fit there anymore, so they needed to find another site. Cooper Park was chosen as the site. They will take the bleacher section out and install a new set of bleachers. They will also construct a new compound. There will be room on the pole for two carriers. The pole will be 80' tall. The current pole is approximately 55 feet tall.

Sullivan commented that this is a good solution and a nice backstop to the bleachers.

Scheer noted that his only problem is that the Parks Department provides the site for these facilities and the companies pay the City a fee to occupy the site, but that money does not go to the Parks Fund. He commented that he realizes that this concern is beyond the Committee review. He feels this is a great improvement to the facility.

“East Downtown” Park conceptual design (J.J. Yost for Parks & Rec)

J.J. Yost began a PowerPoint presentation by stating that a couple years ago they developed a Master Plan for the east downtown park area which is part of the Antelope Valley process. They are now at the point of revising the Master Plan and engaging the community in the process. The area comprises 21st to 22nd Streets from O to R Streets. The Corps of Engineers is building a flood control channel a block

wide. The main commuter recreation trail will be built up to 22nd Street. The Capital Improvement Program would fund some enhancements above the Corps of Engineers plan. There would be connections up to 22nd Street, more active park space developed along the west side of the channel with park walkways, and improvements on the west side of 21st Street. The theme of the project is water, which will be seen throughout the Master Plan.

Yost continued with a block by block detail of the enhancements. O Street will be the entryway to the project. The trail will become the entrance under the O Street bridge. The plan from O to P calls for housing. The plan for 21st Street is to provide festival space. The O Street bridge has a pedestrian overlook area and will have a water feature. An amphitheater is proposed for the block between P to Q. The Q to R block will have a pedestrian overlook area and a pond feature. They are proposing two slides in this area. They are also working with the Malone area on some renovations to Trago Park.

Yost stated that we must remember this is a floodway, and they have worked hard to get the more developed park spaces out of the floodprone areas.

Yost noted that this presentation was made to the Joint Antelope Valley Authority (JAVA) Board, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the JAVA Citizens Committee.

Scholz asked if they are considering providing some skateboarding space. Yost stated that there may be an opportunity for an in-ground skateboarding facility south of N Street near Lewis Field. He noted that the three block area in the east downtown park will be prohibited for skateboarders.

Zimmer asked how the proposed event space at 13th and P, Centennial Park, Pershing and the east downtown park relate to one another. Yost stated that they envision building the basic Master Plan level of Antelope Valley first, followed by Centennial Mall. The event space is gaining momentum as well.

Yost noted that there is significant fund-raising that needs to take place for this project.

Sullivan stated that there are many things on the table, and it is important to prioritize the projects. Scheer stated that he agrees, and the community must decide what is important.

StarTran bus stop/shelters at S 11th and N Streets (Clark Enersen for StarTran)

Jeff Chadwick began a PowerPoint presentation and stated that they are updating the bus shelters at 11th and N Streets near Gold's Galleria. The project encompasses six improvement areas, specifically the heaters, lighting, seating, site improvements, information kiosks and the roof. The heaters, lighting and seating are in poor condition. The shrubs will be replaced. They will remove the heat panels on the walls and add heating under the seating. They are proposing to insert acrylic lights on the inside of the shelter. The roofs will also be restructured with acrylic panels. There will be a filament inside so there can be a variety of colors, patterns and textures.

Sullivan stated that he has concerns with the lighting and the roof because of the heat in the summer. He does not like the idea of exposed tubes. However, he feels it is a good project and long overdue.

Scholz expressed some concern with the durability of the roof panels. Chadwick stated that he would do some more research on the panels and report back.

Miscellaneous

Jeff Cole stated that they are beginning a redevelopment project with the Arbor Day Foundation in conjunction with the Downtown Master Plan. The developers are working with Clark Enersen on a streetscape project that will be a model for the future P Street project. They are currently doing some interior renovations. Scheer stated that they are at the beginning of the design process, so they are seeking input on the project.

Chadwick presented the design along 12th Street from the alley between the Cooper Building and across P Street from 12th to 11th Streets. Along P Street, Urban Development would like to change the six ornamental pedestrian lights. There are also public realm improvements. A new facade is being proposed. They will rebuild the canopies. There will be planting areas on tops of the canopies and planting beds below as well. The intent is to green up the building with ivy. They are looking at laser cut metal panels that would be pulled off the face of the existing canopies. The light would come through these. There is an additional storefront which was where the movie theater posters and concession storage was housed. That bay has been pulled out. This created an entry on two sides. New windows will be installed along the front, and the water features will be renovated. There is also a rooftop garden with a balcony.

Sullivan and Scholz both liked the ideas presented.

Scheer noted that the public realm projects will begin this summer. The remainder of the project should be completed by fall.

Zimmer commented that opening the blank wall is a good idea. He is curious to see how the greening of the building will look. Scheer stated that the greening concept goes back to the Arbor Day Foundation and what their mission stands for.

Zimmer advised them to be cautious and strategic with the laser cut overlays on the existing canopies. Scholz asked if the cantilevered canopies should peak through a little bit, rather than cloaking it. There is a boldness to whole building, and that would open up the corners a little bit.

Cole stated that this is an important project because it will set a tone for other P Street projects.

Zimmer noted that Mayor's Office has appointed two new members, MaryAnn Wells and Rev. Tom Saddler, to the Committee to replace the members Dennis Scheer and Third World Oforah, whose terms have expired.

The meeting concluded at 5:04 p.m.